

Kena Champion

From: Larry Ice <iceworks@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:43 AM
To: planning
Subject: Current Parking Discussions

Re: Parking

For what it's worth. I'm not a citizen of Garden City, so I'm not familiar with your public comment protocol. I'm from Boise, but I spend time and money in Garden City. Currently, it's convenient and there are a lot of small businesses I really enjoy.

I understand that parking is a big development issue in Garden City, just as it is in Boise. My personal experience is that Garden City may currently have more parking than needed in some areas, and less than needed in the prime areas along the Greenbelt. However, I'd like to point out something I think gets lost in the discussion about parking minimums, maximums, the 'high cost of parking,' encouraging alternative transportation and the religious ideology of urban planning theory.

The reality is this is a personal car culture. There will be more public transportation in the Treasure Valley, but it isn't going to be convenient, reliable, fast, safe and 24/7. More people will ride it for some trips, but people are still going to have cars and will require somewhere near their residence to park. If residential parking is cut, they'll take over the streets and commercial parking. If commercial parking is cut, those businesses will have to rely on only walk-in customers. Even today we see overflow parking at all high density residential throughout the Valley.

On summer days, I spend a lot of money at the establishments along the Greenbelt because it's a great place to stop for a meal, a beer or a glass of wine while biking. That will continue. In the winter or in the evenings, we drive to these places for dinner. We've already stopped patronizing a couple of restaurants we liked because of lack of parking. We can't park, we can't patronize.

That point I'd make is that those of us not within walking distance will drive to businesses in Garden City to spend our money...if we can park. If we can't park, we can't spend money in Garden City. Can Garden City businesses prosper if parking is cut?

Larry Ice

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